

**Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2004**

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Call to Order, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Today's Agenda & Minutes of January 26, 2004 and February 20, 2004 Meetings**

Chair Ed Parker called the meeting to order just after 10:00 a.m. and adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Mr. Tom Menard moved to accept the Minutes from both the January 26 and February 20, 2004 meetings. Mr. Charlie Thoits seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved.

**2. Report of the Executive Assistant**

Ms. Janice Rowan provided a report on Commission activities:

Mr. Duncan McInnes, Mr. Jim Carroll and Ms. Jan Rowan traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislative staff from March 8-12, 2004. The presentations included a summary of FY2004 accomplishments, concerns, and recommendations for FY2005. The Commission message addressed the fact that the FY2004 appropriation was less than needed and that it resulted in program adjustments including the closure of the CTDEP Whittemore Salmon Station. Concerns about the level of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding were identified. Additionally, the trio shared the Commission recommendation for \$770,000 in FY2005 funding for critical research, outreach and education initiatives, migratory fish and habitat restoration.

The presentation was met with considerable enthusiasm in many offices. In others, there was surprise over the research component and its possible outcome but this seemed to increase the credibility of the Commission and its recommendations. Legislative staff seemed supportive except for some political considerations. Nevertheless, staff was not overly hopeful about the FY2005 funding situation. Ultimately, neither the House nor the Senate included an appropriation for the Commission in their FY2005 appropriation bills. However, appropriations are currently earmarked for both the Nashua and Pittsford National Fish Hatcheries in the Senate bill. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is funded and operating under a continuing resolution. It is unclear whether the budget will go to conference or be funded through an omnibus bill.

The cooperative nature of the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Program is highlighted in how the Commission member agencies expended the FY2004 appropriation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Connecticut River Coordinator's Office, established new agreements with the New Hampshire Fish and

Game Department, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the U.S. Geological Survey and an amended agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection so that funds and services could be exchanged, as needed, to accomplish the Commission objectives. Contracts were let to accomplish a Website revision at the Connecticut River Coordinator's Office and to facilitate habitat restoration in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service. These actions contributed to the successful completion of a variety of projects that could not have been accomplished without the Congressional add, and without the cooperative partnership, including Atlantic salmon fry production and release, vaccination of pre-smolts, maintenance of kelt and domestic brood stock, trap-and-transport of sea-run salmon, shad and herring restoration, salmon and herring genetics assessments, fishway monitoring, Atlantic salmon index site assessments, and aquatic nuisance species management. These activities have been detailed in a Commission 2004 Accomplishment Report and will be summarized in the Report of the Technical Committee Chair.

In follow-up to the Commission discussion at the January 26, 2004 meeting, an FY2005 Science Support Program funding proposal for a cooperative socio-economic survey was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was not funded.

The alternate Commissioner for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, a position left vacant upon the retirement of Mr. McInnes this past summer, has been filled by Mr. Scott Decker.

The biennial Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission Research Forum has been scheduled for February 9, 2005 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office in Hadley, Massachusetts. A call for presenters has been issued. A public announcement will be made to sign up participants when the agenda is finalized.

The Coordinator also provided updated contact information for members of the Commission and Technical Committee. [Mr. Bob Jones provided his high speed address: [rajones@cox.net](mailto:rajones@cox.net)]

The Administrative Report, a summary of CRASC finances and correspondence, is attached.

### **3. Report of the Technical Committee Chair**

Mr. Jay McMenemy provided a summary of the activities of the Technical Committee:

Much has been accomplished by the Connecticut River migratory fish restoration program in the last year, thanks in part to the CRASC funding provided by Congress, which was used to address critical program shortfalls. The lack of CRASC funding for the coming year combined with the severe budget problems of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pose great challenges for our cooperative restoration program.

## **Fish Culture Workgroup**

### **Stocking/Spawning/Egg Production/Egg Incubation**

A total of 7.7 million salmon fry was stocked last spring into habitat in the four basin states. This is up about 700,000 from last year, but still short of our 10 million goal and the 9.6 million we stocked in 2001. Agency staff was again assisted by hundreds of volunteers.

A total of 95,000 smolts was stocked from the Pittsford National Fish Hatchery last spring into the Connecticut River mainstem and the Farmington River. Smolts were transported by several cooperators. Pittsford has 75,000 smolts on hand for stocking in the spring. Thanks to CRASC funding for vaccine and a large cooperative effort from many sources they were adipose clipped and vaccinated against *Vibrio* and furunculosis in October. These presmolts are in good condition with much improved fin condition from prior years. They appear to be the highest quality smolts the program has produced in many years.

Unfortunately, the USFWS is planning to close the Pittsford hatchery in the spring and to cease production of smolts for the Connecticut River. Pittsford is also not incubating eggs for fry stocking in the Connecticut River as they have in the past. The 80,000 0+ parr now on hand for 2006 smolt stocking are planned to be stocked out. Staff at Pittsford will be transferred to White River as will landlocked salmon production for Lake Champlain and lake sturgeon production for New York.

Joe Ravita of CTDEP, funded by CRASC, developed the spawning plan and coordinated spawning activities for the program. With no CRASC funding, we will not be able to fund Joe's participation in salmon culture work next year. Spawning at all facilities was again a cooperative effort of program partners. Sea-run and some kelt brood stock were again treated with hormones (purchased by CRASC) to synchronize spawning for the egg bank for future brood stock. Mature parr were collected from the Williams River in Vermont to supplement sea-run males to maximize genetic diversity and increase effective population size.

Sea-run brood stock at Cronin National Salmon Station, which had been vaccinated against furunculosis, had their water test positive for the disease. The causes and implications of this are under investigation, but they may not be able to be shipped to North Attleboro for kelt reconditioning.

The USFWS announced that only 1.5 million fry would be produced at White River NFH starting next spring and therefore that only 2.1 million eggs would be incubated there this fall. This would have resulted in the discarding of about 5 million eggs and 10,000 current and future brood stock. The hatchery manager identified the cost of maintaining full egg incubation for this year at \$15,000 and the additional cost for maintaining the brood stock through the year at \$17,000. The U.S. Forest Service/Green Mountain National Forest offered the USFWS the funds, through a cooperative agreement, to maintain both egg production and future brood stock production to continue the genetic marking program, allow fry production for salmon management, and allow continuation of ongoing research. While the USFWS considers the offer, eggs have been shipped to White River NFH for incubation and they now have about 8.6 million on hand.

Due to the initial plan for White River NFH not to take eggs from Kensington SSH, CTDEP stocked a total of 110 mature domestic brood stock in Connecticut tributaries for an experimental evaluation of their spawning success. Some redds have been

documented. Additional eggs were planted in stream gravel in CT until White River NFH agreed to accept all available eggs as they had in the past. About 75,000 domestic eggs from the raceways at Cronin were destroyed before the decision to accept all eggs at White River.

A preliminary total of 12.4 million eggs was taken this year which is similar to last year but short of our 15 million goal. Egg production is low due to low sea-run returns this year, the reduction of kelts and elimination of domestic production at North Attleboro NFH, and the loss of domestic production from the closure of Whittemore Salmon Station. However, domestic egg production at White River NFH is up due to better care of the fish because of the CRASC funded seasonals that aided hatchery staff this year.

Incubation at White River will again require assistance from cooperators due to continued staff vacancies. Fry stocking next spring will probably be similar to last year's level if all eggs are maintained.

Warren SFH (NHFG) produced 214,000 fed fry last spring from 500,000 eggs. High incubation temperatures at Warren require fry to be fed for an extended period prior to stocking. Fry did not feed well and extensive mortality required early stocking of the fry, which were in very poor condition. Future fry production at Warren will require a chiller to control incubation temperatures. Efforts are underway to procure a surplus chiller from the Nashua National Fish Hatchery.

Domestic brood stock which is surplus to program needs was allocated to the states for use in sport fisheries outside the Connecticut River.

Dan Marchant is the new manager of Roger Reed SFH (MAFW), replacing Mike Masley who retired. Roger Reed also has a new chiller which will allow incubation of eggs throughout the winter, eliminating the need to send them to White River for part of the time.

Staffing and budgetary concerns continue to be a major problem at several program facilities.

### **Genetics Workgroup**

Genetically-based brood stock management continued in cooperation with Conte Lab. Sea-runs were genetically typed and matings planned to avoid breeding closely related fish. Much of the egg production of domestic brood stock at White River NFH was genetically "marked" and the resulting fry stocked in ten "regions" made up of one or more tributaries. Smolts and adults produced from marked fry will be able to be identified to tributary of origin (or group of tributaries) by analyzing a small tissue sample (i.e. partial fin clip). The 2004 smolt run was the first with "marked" domestics contributing. Partial fin clips were collected from 1,300 smolts sampled at Cabot and CRASC funding to the Conte Lab will allow the samples to be analyzed. Results are expected this winter.

Sea-run fry were stocked in the Williams River watershed for mature parr production and possible genetic research.

The 2003 year class of future brood stock at White River NFH had not been PIT tagged for future identification due to lack of funds to purchase the tags. CRASC funding

allowed PIT tags to be purchased so both the 2003 and 2004 year classes could be tagged. The 2003 year class was tagged last spring and tagging of the 2004 year class is underway now. This PIT tagging is essential to the continuation of genetic marking research and evaluation.

### **Fish Passage Workgroup**

#### **Hydro Licensing**

Construction of the fish passage changes at Holyoke as a result of the new license are underway and on schedule for completion in advance of the spring fish passage season. A full depth canal louver array has been completed. Ongoing construction includes installing two new lift towers, redesigning the spillway entrance gallery, an expanded exit flume, a second counting window and trapping facility, and a new shad/herring trucking facility. Future actions include eelway construction and downstream fish passage improvements at the main powerhouse.

#### **Upstream Passage**

Continued evaluations of the Turners Falls fishways were done in 2004 to address the severe problems with shad passage. An experimental entrance for the gatehouse fishway was evaluated that passed about 50% of the shad compared with 10% for the old entrance. Efforts will be made next year to improve this further and if successful the gatehouse ladder entrance will be modified the following year.

Fishway monitors at DSI and Vernon were provided by CRASC funds.

#### **Downstream Passage**

PG&E installed a smolt sampler at Moore Dam to collect data on seasonal and diurnal timing of smolt migration to facilitate passage facility development. The facility was not operational until the smolt migration was already underway, but it captured many wild smolts, which were trucked below McIndoes for release. However, passage efficiency for hatchery smolts was very low. Further evaluation is needed and planned for next spring.

Modifications at the McIndoes bypass were evaluated for smolt passage in the spring but we do not yet have the results. Last year's results indicated low passage efficiency.

The hydro facility at the Russell Dam on the Westfield River has applied for a FERC exemption to resume operations. They will be required to install downstream passage and upstream eel passage if they restart.

If the USFWS proposal to reduce production to 1.5 million fry at White River NFH is implemented, many of the downstream passage facilities constructed in recent years will have no fry stocked above them.

#### **Other**

A feasibility study regarding the removal of the Homestead Dam on the Ashuelot River has been completed and we are awaiting the final report from the consultants.

Entergy, the owner of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant, is proposing to relax thermal discharge limits that may impact anadromous fish migrations. We are very concerned about the possible impacts of existing and proposed increases in thermal discharges. Agency staff continues to review their proposal.

### **Salmon Studies Workgroup**

A total of 69 adult salmon was counted at fishways this year, up from 43 last year. All of the returns were from fry stocking, the first 2SW returns from Pittsford smolts are not expected until next year. Production of smolts from fry stocking as estimated from index station electrofishing surveys and the mark-recapture estimate at Cabot and Holyoke continues to be high but marine and/or estuarine survival continues to be much lower than previous years.

Six of the salmon captured at Holyoke were radiotagged and released. One tag immediately failed after the salmon was released. One salmon passed back downstream of Holyoke and was captured at DSI on the Westfield. It was released to the upper Westfield. Three entered the Deerfield River. One salmon migrated from below Turners Falls to the mouth of the White River in five days passing four fishways and swimming approximately 100 miles in the process. It then passed Wilder fishway and was tracked as far upstream as the vicinity of the Wells and Ammonoosuc Rivers.

Similar to last year, the NU/GCC smolt mark-recapture estimate at Cabot and Holyoke resulted in a high estimate (78,000) but wide confidence intervals because of relatively low numbers of smolts marked and recaptured due to high flows. The index station data also showed high production in the habitat prior to migration.

Index site data for fry stocking evaluation collected this summer and fall have not been completely analyzed. MAFW was able to do index station assessments this year with CRASC funded seasonals after not conducting any last year. It appears that densities/survival of both young of the year and yearling parr are in the normal range throughout the basin and size/growth is above average due to the wet summer.

### **Shad Studies Workgroup**

A total of 192,000 shad was counted at Holyoke, down about 100,000 from last year but just below the ten-year average. Only 2,092 shad passed Turners Falls and 647 passed Vernon. Shad passage also remained low at Rainbow (116) and again declined at DSI (1,700 to 913) from last year. Blueback herring counts were very low again; only 151 passed Holyoke.

A total of 352 shad was trucked above Vernon and 410 were trucked to the Ashuelot, both down from last year due to the demise of NHFG's shad truck and shad trapping conditions. Despite low shad passage and limited numbers trucked, shad reproduction was documented in the Vernon pool. Blueback herring (227) were trucked to the Ashuelot River but none were available on the day scheduled for blueback transport to the Westfield. The departure of Phil Herzig of the Sunderland Office of Fisheries Assistance for a new job will make shad and blueback trucking even more difficult next year. However, the new shad trucking facility at Holyoke should greatly reduce shad trapping constraints.

Samples were taken from 128 blueback herring for genetic analysis funded by NMFS and CRASC.

### **Other**

The Connecticut River Coordinator's website ([www.fws.gov/r5crc/](http://www.fws.gov/r5crc/)) was updated and expanded utilizing a consultant hired with CRASC funds.

A sea lamprey management plan draft is under review.

The American eel management plan draft is still being worked on and should be ready for CRASC review this winter.

The Historical Nipmuc Tribe conducted a blessing of the Connecticut River and its fish at Unity Park in Turners Falls that was attended by the Technical Committee prior to our last meeting.

The next Connecticut River Migratory Fish Research Forum will be held February 9 at the USFWS Regional Office.

#### Discussion:

Mr. Tom Miner commented on the fact that the State of Vermont was likely to release a draft permit for Vermont Yankee very soon and he inquired whether the Commission expected to participate in the public hearing? He was assured that Commission member agencies had been following the issue and working to resolve the concerns through the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lee Perry asked if any research was underway to address the question of salmon smolt survival in the estuary and marine environment? He was informed that this was part of the unfunded FY 2005 budget recommendation. In fact, freshwater survival in the Connecticut River basin has been consistently high for the past decade though adult returns have decreased. There is no way to answer why without additional research. Research proposals including working budgets have been drafted with general priorities assigned. In the mean time, the NASCO has set up the International Salmon in the Sea Research Board with initial funding only for administration and fund raising. The Board has solicited proposals and identified priorities for research. The priorities focus on bycatch, relationships with other species, and climate issues. Mr. Steve Gephard offered to share additional information on NASCO priorities with the Commissioners through the Coordinator in the future.

Mr. Wayne MacCallum asked for a technical explanation on how radio-tagged salmon are monitored. Mr. McMenemy described the transmitters and the array of receivers that are set out to capture signals from the tags. The tags are large and have a life expectancy of about ten months which is adequate to track spring emigration. He added that the cooperators had access to an additional portable receiver for use in tracking the adults outside of the study area. Mr. MacCallum noted that researchers have been able to track sea duck survival in the Arctic. The research has been cost effective and it delivers good, basic information. He suggested that the same might be possible with salmon if the fish are monitored from the air. There are some key differences in tagging salmon. The smolts can be tagged but the tag is smaller than that used in adults and the size of the tag impacts the range of the signal. Additionally, acoustic tags are required in the ocean. Some initial experimentation has been conducted by USGS in the lower river. The bottom line is cost. Additional research designed to address the fate of smolts could be completed. An acoustic tagging study is estimated to cost \$300K, a post-smolt trawling study is estimated at \$500K, and a pound net study is estimated at \$250K. Though similar research has been conducted in Maine and Canada, the results may be different

here. In Maine, acid rain and pH shock were identified as the smoking gun that explains smolt mortality in the ocean as a function of impaired osmo-regulation. The same type of research here could reveal a different smoking gun.

#### **4. Update and Discussion on Funding and Program Operations**

Mr. Parker opened the discussion noting the USFWS is struggling with budget reductions due largely to inflation. The States have been dealing with similar concerns. Until recently, both have managed the budgets reasonably well. However, the USFWS is currently facing a daunting budget exercise with particular impact in the Fisheries Division. Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Marvin Moriarty for his efforts, which have been good, and for his pledge of openness and his offers to provide a better understanding.

Mr. Moriarty then took the time to fully explain the situation. In FY 2004, the Fisheries Division had a deficit of \$1.6M. Gradual erosion of the base budget had left the program with 30% of its positions vacant severely decreasing flexibility and management options, and the Region was managing a lot of facilities, each with operating costs. The Fisheries Division could not manage the deficit as in the past, so Mr. Moriarty rescued it by taking money from elsewhere in the Region, a move that is extraordinary and something that can't happen annually.

Other Regions are experiencing similar concerns throughout the country. A couple of Regions may be in worse shape. They are starting the year with less funding than the projected cost of salaries.

The USFWS met with the States, identified priorities, and proposed cuts as needed to address the budget deficit. The proposals called for a reduction of most programs, caretaker status for two hatcheries (Nashua and Pittsford), and reduction to a minimal levels at 4-5 Fisheries Assistance Offices. The proposal did not call for the elimination of any programs. No actions could be implemented in FY 2005 (to date) because the agency is operating under a continuing resolution and because the USFWS Director has not yet approved program reductions. The plan is also potentially foiled by language in the Senate appropriations bill that earmarks funds to maintain both hatcheries proposed for caretaker status. So, despite everything, the USFWS has been operating in a business as usual mode which is exacerbating the deficit situation.

Mr. Moriarty noted that there are some signs of hope. The deficit situation has attracted Congressional interest. He has met with House and Senate appropriations staff a couple of times. The first meeting was a bit rocky since the Region's Fisheries budget-deficit message seemed to contradict the facts as inferred from the President's budget and the USFWS Director's pledge to put the fish back in the USFWS. A second meeting was more productive in placing the budget concern in a national context. Recent funding increases were shown to have been tied to earmarks and specific additions not associated with an overall improvement. Though new adds have to come from within the USFWS because of budget caps, one option can be implemented to provide immediate relief. The prospect of accessing \$4M in deferred maintenance funding was discussed. These funds



could be used to pay certain salaries thus sparing those salaries for operations costs. This type of action could happen in future years as well but the rub is depletion of a maintenance fund that is also needed. The Washington Office will determine how the \$4M will be allocated within the country but Region 5 could realize as much as \$680K. If these funds become available, Mr. Moriarty reported that he would not place Pittsford or Nashua NFH in caretaker status. Nevertheless, if the apportionment from this \$4M fund to this Region is lower, or if there is less funding available than expected, based on the President's budget, there may be additional problems to manage.

Mr. Moriarty noted that the Commission has visibility and that Congressionals are aware of the USFWS funding issues. He thanked the Commission and credited them with establishing this recognition. He pointed out that a lot of what he had described so far was based on assumptions and promises and that we needed to continue to work with the Washington Office to ensure that Region 5 gets its fair share. The effort won't stop here either since the overall federal budget may be balanced on discretionary funding for agencies like the DOI. This means that a program collapse is still possible. Thus, it is all the more important to have a coordinated and directed effort.

Mr. Wayne MacCallum asked if a formal resolution or letter signed by all the Commissioners to the USFWS Director and Congressional delegation, from the Commission in support of Mr. Moriarty's effort, would help? Mr. Moriarty encouraged the Commission to do all that they could. Further discussion was deferred to Other Business.

Mr. Ron Regan asked about the status of the USFS offer of \$32K? Mr. Moriarty replied that the USFWS was receptive especially in that the White River NFH is still at the 5M fry production level. The problem is that, with budget uncertainty, the USFWS cannot guarantee use of the funds exactly as specified. He indicated that the Regional office staff would be contacting the USFS to discuss these concerns and the possibility of accepting the funds with some sort of provision. Mr. MacCallum noted that the Commission understands that this is the lowest USFWS priority and that funding is limited, but he pointed out that the USFS offer was an example of the partners trying to help with something that otherwise might not be funded. Mr. Parker agreed and indicated that there was not complete understanding yet, the budget figures were a moving target, and this underscored the need to have the right people clearly communicating the issues.

Mr. Jim Carroll asked if the Commission effort in D.C. was helpful? Mr. Moriarty replied that the Commission effort and others had failed if the metric was funding. Mr. Carroll wondered if the visibility was helpful? Mr. Moriarty said that, in that respect, the effort was wildly successful. Congressional staff called these issues to the attention of Appropriations staff.

Mr. Lee Perry pointed out that Commission efforts had resulted in an add in 2004 and though the effort failed to generate an add in 2005, there was still a chance to influence the outcome. He suggested that the Commission look beyond the Connecticut River to

all of New England for Atlantic salmon and anadromous fish. Mr. Parker agreed that this would create a larger Congressional base. Mr. Moriarty also agreed and suggested that a vision should be defined.

Mr. MacCallum asked if the funding effort failed whether the infrastructure at the USFWS facilities would be made available to the partners, things like egg trays, for example? Mr. Moriarty said that they would. He said that they would also likely take funding from higher priorities to keep the Nashua and Pittsford NFHs open. It would require the USFWS to work across boundaries to achieve its goals.

Mr. Peter Basta asked why the Connecticut River, which addresses a lot of the USFWS criteria for a priority program was rated so low? Mr. Moriarty explained that the first tier priorities were obligations – and included recovery of endangered Atlantic salmon in Maine and mussels in West Virginia. The second tier is the Penobscot restoration. Here, the USFWS is trying to avoid listing the Penobscot stock and is capitalizing on relatively higher returns and the very ambitious, visible and promising river restoration effort. The third tier includes fisheries programs in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain that are associated with high economic returns. The last tier is those programs that are realizing depressed returns, fewer economic benefits and expensive operations costs. Mr. Basta felt the program was being short-changed. Mr. Menard agreed especially since there is a moratorium on fishing for salmon here. This criterion biases the selection. Mr. Bennett said that the program is still a priority but decisions had to be made to deal with the deficit. Mr. Moriarty concluded that there is a need, now, to re-orient the program around anadromous fish.

## **5. Other Business**

Mr. MacCallum motioned that the Commission send a letter in support of Mr. Moriarty's effort to resolve the USFWS-Fisheries budget deficit to the USFWS Director with a copy to the Congressional delegation. Mr. Perry seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. MacCallum noted that the Commission is an appropriate body to do this – it has the advantage of a legislated mandate, a long history of investment, and membership from four state Directors and four gubernatorial public appointees. Mr. Perry agreed to support a letter but pointed out that competition should be expected even from within this Region. He cautioned against any action that could harm efforts in New England to the advantage of efforts in other regions. However, the Commissioners agreed that an effort to get at this through anadromous fish is a separate issue that should be pursued in the future. The focus of the letter is the salmon program.

The motion was approved. Mr. Moriarty abstained from the voting.

Mr. Jones agreed to draft the letter and circulate it via email for review in the next week. Ms. Rowan agreed to look into a way to provide electronic signature from each of the Commissioners.

The Commission scheduled the following meeting dates:

January 21, 2005  
November 18, 2005

**6. Special Recognition for Mr. Duncan McInnes, NHFG-retired, Jim Carroll, Connecticut River Salmon Association, and Tom Miner, Connecticut River Watershed Council**

Mr. Parker present certificates of appreciation from the Commission and limited edition salmon prints, donated by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, to Mr. Duncan McInnes, Mr. Jim Carroll, and Mr. Tom Miner. What follows is, in part, what Mr. Parker said in recognizing these individuals for their contributions to the Commission:

**Mr. Tom Miner**, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council, is awarded recognition by the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission.

Tom has been extremely supportive of the Connecticut River anadromous fish restoration program over the years. Most recently during the FERC relicensing of the Holyoke dam, the Watershed Council became a legal intervener in the Federal relicensing process and the State appeal process that followed. Tom personally attended countless meetings where he helped State and Federal fisheries agencies negotiate for improvements in fish habitat and fish passage. These improvements ultimately became part of the new FERC license. The Watershed Council has played an important role in the restoration of habitat through construction of fishways. And, it actively supported the reauthorization of the Connecticut River Salmon Compact and Congressional funding for the program. Thus, we would like to thank Tom for his hard work and support in restoring fish and habitat in this river.

Tom will be retiring at the end of this year. We wish him the best in his retirement.

**Mr. James J. Carroll, Jr.**, Secretary of the Connecticut River Salmon Association, is awarded special recognition by the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission.

Jim participated on the Ad Hoc Congressional Initiative Committee wherein he gave generously of his own time and heart to help the Commission secure \$250,000 in Congressional funding in 2004. This required a strategy, planning, organization, and countless phone calls and visits to legislative offices throughout the basin and in Washington, DC. Jim's role as a private citizen and his considerable business experience were integral to the Committee's success.

We also want to recognize Jim for playing one other important role in the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. His tireless efforts to bring Atlantic salmon to classrooms throughout the Connecticut River basin and in Rhode Island are well-known. Jim and the Connecticut River Salmon Association have exposed thousands upon thousands of

children to this hands-on science program. In giving back as a volunteer, Jim is paying forward a huge legacy of natural resource and watershed stewards.

Today, we are publicly acknowledging Jim's incredible energy and commitment and we are taking this opportunity to single him out for thanks and to encourage him to continue for as long as he is able and willing.

**Mr. Duncan C. McInnes**, recently retired from the New Hampshire Fish and Game, is being recognized today for honorable service to and on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission.

Duncan served the Commission for ten years. He initially served on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission Technical Committee beginning in late 1995. At that time he was the Alternate Commissioner for New Hampshire in Jim DiStefano's absence. Duncan continued to serve as the Technical Committee representative and alternate Commissioner for New Hampshire under Wayne Vetter. Duncan Chaired the Commission from late 1997 until early 2003. Afterward, he again served as the New Hampshire alternate until his retirement in July 2004.

In March 2000, while Duncan was Chair, the Commission started what was become the Congressional Initiative to reauthorize the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Compact and secure additional funding for the program. Duncan was the champion for this effort and later led the Ad Hoc Congressional Initiative Committee. This cooperative interagency, multi-state effort successfully added 20 years to the Commission's enabling legislation and provided an additional \$250,000 to accomplish Commission objectives in migratory fish restoration in 2004.

We want to take this special opportunity to thank Duncan for his diplomacy, vision and leadership in the past decade. We wish him the best in his retirement.

### Attendance

Janice Rowan	USFWS
Ed Parker	CT Bureau of Natural Resources
Bob Jones	CT Public Commissioner
Jay McMenemy	VTFW
Ron Regan	VTFW
Wayne MacCallum	MADFW
Peter Basta	VT Public Commissioner
Marvin Moriarty	USFWS
Rick Bennett	USFWS
Thomas D. Menard	MA Public Commissioner
Lee Perry	NHFG
Charles F. Thoits, III	NH Public Commissioner
Steve Gephard	CTDEP
Scott Decker	NHFG
Gabe Gries	NHFG
John Warner	USFWS
Duncan McInnes	Citizen
Mary LeBaugh	Citizen
Paul Pajak	USFWS
Caleb Slater	MADFW
Tom Miner	Connecticut River Watershed Council
Andrea Donlon	Connecticut River Watershed Council
Darren Desmarais	USFWS
Mickey Novak	USFWS
Bob Stira	Northeast Generating Services
Curt Orvis	USFWS
Ken Gillette	USFWS
Darleen Cutting	USFWS